



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hopland Municipal Advisory Council

Minutes

Regular Meeting – Hybrid

May 17, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Hopland Fire Protection District Community Room
21 Feliz Creek Road, Hopland, California

Pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20 and Assembly Bill No. 361, which waives in-person accessibility for public meetings, provided that there are other means available for the public to participate, the Hopland Municipal Advisory Council meetings will be held virtually via Zoom Video Communications until further notice. Meeting access information is available on the Agenda for this meeting.

Members: Julie Golden, Amy Frost, Hannah Bird, Jane Cupples, Shawn Padi

Alternate: Bernadette Byrne

Administrative Support: Rebecca Dalske, Melissa Frausto - LACO Associates

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. All members were present except for Bernadette Byrne.

2. Public comment & announcements on non-agenda items

Brian Yepez (*Hopland Band of Pomo Indian Member & Hopland Vision Member*) (*Public comment*): Brian shared that Hopland Vision is a committee dedicated to addressing community concerns and issues. Hopland Vision members help on a volunteer basis and have approximately 30 volunteers.

3. Consent Calendar

The following consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, and will be acted on by the HMAC in a single action without discussion, unless a request is made by a Council Member or a member of the public for discussion or separate action.

- a. Approval of the April 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Re-authorizing Resolution for Continued Remote Meetings per AB 361 (Gov. Code section 54953(e)(3))

Julie motioned to approve the consent calendar, with a second from Hannah. All council members present voted in favor.

4. Discussion and possible action on community updates and issues

- a. Mendocino County Sheriff's Office: *General updates from Sheriff Kendall*
Sheriff Kendall shared the following updates:

- The Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in violence in Covelo.
- There is a lot of snowmelt this year so there may be less fire danger but advised not to leave a burning brush pile unattended.
- Call 911 first before assisting someone experiencing an overdose.

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HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Lastly, the Ukiah High School Wrestling team has asked for donations and is looking for volunteer opportunities for the team members.

b. Hopland Fire Protection District: *General updates from Chief Franklin*

Chief Franklin shared that the Fire Protection District (District) has hired two new employees and now has six full-time employees. The Fireman's BBQ was a success.

Hannah asked if there is a Hopland Fire Safe Council. Julie added that having green reflective address signs would be a good first project. Franklin shared that there Hopland does not have a Fire Safe Council but would be great to have one.

(Public comment): A member of Hopland Vision shared that the group is available to help the District.

(Public comment): A member of Hopland Vision asked if Measure N would be on the upcoming ballot. Chief Franklin shared that it will not be on the upcoming ballot because the measure failed in the previous years, but that the District will try again in two years.

c. Hopland Cemetery District: *General updates from Katharine Cole*

Katharine shared that Hopland Vision came to the Hopland Cemetery and assisted with clean-up activities. The Hopland Cemetery District (District) is also working on the budget, which will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors in July. Lastly, the District is looking for a non-profit to help organize fundraisers and plan events to raise funds for the District.

d. Shanél Valley Academy: *General updates from Amy Frost*

Amy shared that the Ukiah Unified School District (UUSD) approved Shanél Valley Academy's (SVA) request to provide grades 7 and 8 and the SVA will have to meet the UUSD requirements by the end of the year. The SVA will be starting a summer program for 4-year-olds to 6th graders and the program will not require the students to be enrolled with the SVA. The SVA was also awarded two new grants for after school programs and transportation for high need students. The SVA is waiting to hear back for one more grant. Lastly, the SVA is looking for volunteers to help with building a barn and garden at the school.

(Public comment): A Hopland Vision member asked how to get in contact with Amy to help with building the barn and garden. Amy shared that the best way to contact her is through email at amy@frostink.com.

e. Hopland Research and Extension Center: *General updates from Hannah Bird*

Hannah shared that the Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) will have a fundraiser on Sunday. The fundraiser, which has sold out, will help to keep the programs at the HREC free or at low cost. The HREC has been working with the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians to hold a dance by the lake on May 18th. Hannah is excited for the land to



HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

have connection again. Lastly, the HREC holds a walking group that will meet once a week for ten weeks and go on walks for an hour. To sign up as a walking group leader, contact Hannah at hbird@ucanr.edu.

Brian Yepez (*Hopland Band of Pomo Indian Member & Hopland Vision Member*) (*Public comment*): Brian asked if the HREC has the oldest chaparral in Mendocino. Hannah is not sure if it's the oldest chaparral but shared that it is an interesting habitat because of the mix of inland and coastal climate.

- f. Hopland Public Utility District: *General updates*
No update/discussion
- g. Board of Supervisors: *General updates*
Supervisor McGourty shared that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is working on protecting access to water and will be meeting with the Russian River Committee.
- h. Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG): *General updates*
Nephele Barrett submitted a written comment (see attached).

5. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Rest Stop Project

Julie shared that Luisa Morris, Project Manager of the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) came to last month's meeting and showed interest and support for the Hopland Rest Stop Project.

Brian Yepez (*Hopland Band of Pomo Indian Member & Hopland Vision Member*) (*Public comment*): Brian would like to see historical markers such as a plaque at the Hopland Rest Stop to call out the history of the tribal land.

6. Discussion and possible action on Downtown Hopland Pedestrian Lighting

Julie asked Jesse Davis (*City of Ukiah, Chief Planning Manager*) for advice on how to approach the Caltrans ADA Project and the need for funds to purchase the streetlights. Jesse shared that pedestrian safety and beautification is important to Caltrans. The HMAc should coordinate with the Caltrans ADA Project Manager to look for grants with that in mind.

7. Discussion and possible action on Hopland Downtown Plan

Julie introduced Jesse Davis, the Chief Planning Manager for the City of Ukiah. Jesse previously worked for Mendocino County and currently works for the City of Ukiah.

Jesse Davis shared that he has read the Strong Towns: A Bottom-UP Revolution to Rebuild American Prosperity book and advises an incremental approach to writing the Hopland Downtown Plan (Plan) that is realistic. Jesse recommends that the HMAc start reviewing the Mendocino County General Plan (2009) and identify outdated policies and goals. Then, take inventory of Hopland's assets such as the SVA, determine what development Hopland should plan for next, and focus on a few projects at a time like the Hopland Rest Stop. Jesse also recommends creating a plan that would be sustainable for County staff, the BOS, and key stakeholders to

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HOPLAND

MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

ensure that the Plan can be implemented. Lastly, Jesse advised to incentivize the development community members would like to see rather than creating regulations that would restrict development.

8. Council Members' and staff reports regarding assigned tasks, committee meetings, and other items of general interest

a. Water Committee Updates

No update/discussion

b. HMAC Officers

Jane asked what the responsibilities of Treasurer entailed. Julie shared that the Treasurer submits a yearly expense report to the BOS.

Julie motioned to approve Jane as the HMAC Treasurer, Hannah seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.

9. Discussion on agenda items for June 21, 2023 HMAC meeting

No update/discussion

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.